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France since 1814. By BARON PIERRE DE COUBERTIN. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1900. — x, 281 pp.

Monsieur de Coubertin, who a few years ago gave us an exceedingly readable and well-informed book on the political history of France under the third Republic, now comes forward with a much more ambitious undertaking. *France since 1814* purports to be an explanation of the striking vicissitudes of French history since the fall of Napoleon—an explanation assuredly needed by the American reader, who is well-nigh bewildered when beholding a country which in less than seventy-five years lived under five different governments and discarded four of them less than twenty years after setting them up or allowing them to be established; but we are afraid that this time M. de Coubertin's shaft fell considerably short of his aim.

The book consists of only eight short chapters. It can easily be read in a little more than two hours and contains very few references. Yet the author attempts to controvert and totally to upset the views usually held of some of the most important events in the period of which he treats. His estimate of men, too, is one which in many cases would require a good deal of support from facts, and such support must be acknowledged to be entirely absent from the pages before us.

The main contention of M. de Coubertin in the earlier part of his work is, that the government of the Restoration was from start to finish in possession of popularity. Napoleon's triumphant return from Elba in March, 1814, he ascribes solely to the defection of the army, in no way to the many mistakes which had led the people to believe that the Restoration was a *revanche* against the Revolution. To such a conclusion he is, moreover, driven by the assertion that the Revolution itself, and not simply its excesses, had come to be thoroughly hated by the people; and thus he totally ignores Carnot's famous memoir to King Louis XVIII. The great man of the period to him is the Duc d'Angoulême, the man about whose wife Napoleon said that she was the only man in the family, and whom all other historians describe as a peevish, querulous, narrow-minded nonentity.

His boldest assumptions, perhaps, we meet when coming to the Revolution of 1830. To him Charles X's famous *Ordonnances* are no longer an attempted coup d'état: they are at most a somewhat imprudent interpretation of some obscure dispositions in the Constitutional Charter. The battle in the streets shrinks to the proportions of almost insignificant rioting, and its transformation into a

Revolution is due entirely to the mischievous ambition of one man, Adolphe Thiers!

Now all this may be true; but when such an entirely novel view is brought forward of events which have been related by scores of historians, the propounder of it is bound to provide us with the grounds for his unexpected interpretation of history.

The remainder of the work is, it must be owned, more satisfactory. The happiest pages, perhaps, are those which deal with Louis Philippe and explain how he managed to become, little by little, not what Thiers wanted him to be, *un roi qui règne et ne gouverne pas*, but a sovereign in possession of strong personal power. After 1846, and for the two years which preceded the Revolution of 1848, M. de Coubertin considers him "almost a king."

The fifth chapter, "Four Months a Republic," is a very bright picture of the unsettled condition of France during the period which separated the fall of Louis Philippe from the socialistic insurrection of June, 1848. But a view which cannot easily be accepted is, that the Republic ceased to exist when General Cavaignac was called to power. That the presidency of Louis Napoleon should be considered merely a preface to the second Empire is no violent demand upon the mind of the student of history. Not so, however, for the period that goes from June 24 to December 10, 1848. If on the last-named date Cavaignac, and not Louis Napoleon, had been elected president, the Republic would in all likelihood have lived a good deal longer — nay, might have become permanently established in France. To such boldness of assertion is our author forced by his attempt to compress into a few pages events which are among the most complicated in the history of the nineteenth century.

More tenable is M. de Coubertin's view in regard to the Italian war of 1859, which he regards as beginning the decay of Napoleon III's power. We think that a good deal might be said against such a view, but it has been held by a great many clear-sighted observers — by Adolphe Thiers, for instance, and by the last and remarkably well informed historian of the second Empire, M. Pierre de la Gorce.

In fact, the nearer the author comes to our own days the less bewildering his statements become. May it not be that he is one of those men who can interpret better what they see than what they read? If so, we should have to admit that he would be better fitted for the career of a public man than for that of a historian — a conclusion which, perhaps, would not be unwelcome to him.

The book is brilliantly written and abominably translated. The only praise to be given to the translator is that he (or she) has been modest enough to withhold his (or her) name from the public. But when will authors and publishers understand that a good translator must possess four qualifications—first, a knowledge of the language to be translated from; second, a knowledge of the language to be translated into; third, literary ability; fourth, knowledge of the subject dealt with in the book to be translated? M. de Coubertin's translator possesses all the above qualifications save four.

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Letters of David Ricardo to Hutches Trower and Others, 1811–1823. Edited by JAMES BONAR and J. H. HOLLANDER. Oxford, The Clarendon Press, 1899. —xxiii, 235 pp.

In 1887 Dr. Bonar edited the letters of Ricardo to Malthus, published by the Clarendon Press. In 1896 Professor Hollander edited the letters of Ricardo to McCulloch, published by the American Economic Association. These two scholars now unite in editing the series of letters here under review. As might have been expected from their previous undertakings, their work has been admirably done. The reader will find all imaginable aids and explanations—an excellent introduction, a table of contents in which each letter is summarized, a full index, and footnotes on the literary, political and economic events of the time. There are abundant references to the previously published writings of Ricardo and to those of his contemporaries, and summaries and explanations of obscure passages. The reviewer has only to express the thanks of students of economics for the skill and labor with which the contents of the letters have thus been made easily available for consultation and comparison.

Hutches Trower was, like Ricardo, a stockbroker, and the close friendship between the two began on the Exchange. Both were interested in economics and politics; both were liberal, almost radical, in their views; both retired as country gentlemen, after having made their fortunes in the city; both had literary ambition. These letters cover all sorts of topics, from the theory of value and of over-production to journeys on the Continent and the upset of a phaeton. Some things new appear in them, as in those previously published, about Ricardo's habits of thought and his own interpretation of his doctrines, but more as to the personality of the man :